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**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provided for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

<i>8-29-03 BH/H/ard</i>	<i>#30</i>
<i>Application Number</i>	09/217,117
<i>Filing Date</i>	December 21, 1998
<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Yasutomo NISHINA
<i>Group Art Unit</i>	2173
<i>Examiner Name</i>	Tadesse Hailu
<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	450100-4033.1

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

Submission required under CFR 1.114.

**RECEIVED**

AUG 18 2003

Technology Center 2100

- a.  Previously submitted
- i.  Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on July 14, 2003 (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)
  - ii.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b.  Enclosed
- i.  Amendment/Reply
  - ii.  Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
  - iii.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
  - iv.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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2. **Miscellaneous**

- a.  Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(l) required)
- b.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayments, to **Deposit Account No. 50-0320**.
- b.  Checks in the amount of **\$750.00 and \$300.00** are enclosed for the following: : RCE fee and two-month extension-of-time fee
  - i.  RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
  - ii.  Petition for two-month extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
  - iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- c.  Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Dennis M. Smid	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	34,930
Signature		Date	August 13, 2003

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	<u>Barnet Shindlin</u>		
Signature		Date	August 13, 2003
"Express Mail" mailing label number:	EV196820002US		